

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2477

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RECEPCEN NEW YORK

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FOR CU/IVP/V

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, OVIP (CASTRO, FRED RUIZ, CHIEF JUSTICE,

PHILIPPINER SUPREME COURT

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. JUSTICE FRED RUIZ CASTRO, RECENTLY APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE OF PHILIPPINE SUPREME COURT ADVISED EMBASSY HE IS PLANNING A WORKING TRIP TO U.S. IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. HE HAS INDICATED HIS TRIP WILL FOCUS ON THREE AREAS OF INTEREST: COURT ADMINISTRATION, SMALL CLAIMS COURT AND INTEGRATED BAR ORGANIZATION. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE APPOINTMENTS WITH FEDERAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR LOCATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND COURT ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE STATES OF NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT THE SCHOOL FOR APPELLAGE JUDGES THAT HE UNDERSTANDS IS LOCATED IN DENVER, COLORADO. IN THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT AREA HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO INDIVIDUALS FAMILIAR WITH SUCH IN PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK CITY AND SELECTED CITIES IN CALIFORNIA. HE WOULD APPRECIATE OUR RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE BEST STATE INTEGRATED BAR ASSOCIATIONS TO VISIT AND ANY OTHER AGENCIES OF FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENTS THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HE IS SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING WRITTEN MATERIAL ON ANY OF THE ABOVE AREAS.

3. JUSTICE CASTRO EMPHASIZED THAT THE PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO WORK

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AND STUDY AND HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN SIGHTSEEING. HE HAS

NOT REQUESTED ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY HELP IN PROGRAMMING AND OBTAINING THE NECESSARY APPOINTMENTS.

4. HE HAS ALSO REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER.

5. JUSTICE CASTRO HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN INSTIGATING JUDICIAL REFORM IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FORMING THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES AND UNTIL HIS ELEVATION TO CHIEF JUSTICE WAS HEAD OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM COMMITTEE OF THE PHILIPPINE SUPREME COURT. HIS PRESENT POSITION ALONG WITH HIS SOLID REPUTATION PUTS HIM IN AN IDEAL POSITION TO DIRECTLY INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT ALL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE BE PROVIDED HIM. HE ANTICIPATES TRAVEL DURING APRIL-JUNE TIME PERIOD AND WILL ADVISE US AS TO HIS EXACT PERIOD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA AS TO THE TIME NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH ABOVE OBJECTIVES AND IF POSSIBLE NAMES OF JUDGES OR LAWYERS RECOMMENDED THAT HE VISIT AND A PROPOSED ITINERARY. IT IS ASSUMED THAT HE WOULD WORK HIS SCHEDULE AROUND HIS APPOINTMENT WITH JUSTICE BURGER SO A TENTATIVE IDEA OF IF AND WHEN JUSTICE BURGER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TALK TO HIS COUNTERPART FROM THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION COULD BE PRELIMINARILY PROVIDED ON THE ABOVE.

8. DETAILED BIODATA AIRPOUCHED. REF. MANILA A-08 DATED JANUARY 9.

9. EMBASSY CONSIDERS VISIT BY CHIEF JUSTICE CASTRO OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME OF INCREASING INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND URGES SPECIAL DEPARTMENT EFFORT TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM WITH UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB SHOULD BE KEPT ADVISED AS WELL AS LEGAL ADVISER.

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